

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

**Please Amend the Abstract as follows:**

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B<sup>12</sup> Powder of a simple substance or a combination of a plurality of carbides of metals belonging to the IVa, Va and Via families in the Periodic Table is mixed with a ferrous-family metal powder or non-ferrous metal powder having the same composition as the treatment target (2) as a simple substance or a combination of a plurality of metals, and this is compressed and molded, and ~~preliminary~~ incompletely sintered to form ~~a sintered~~ an electrode (12) serving as a discharge processing electrode; and said device is provided with a switching unit which alters electrical conditions at the time when the base member of the treatment target (2) is directly subjected to a discharging surface treatment and the electrical conditions at the time when a ~~hard~~ ~~coat~~ coating film (13) that has been formed is subjected to a discharging surface treatment according to the characteristics of the treatment target material. Thus, a discharge is continuously generated between the sintered electrode (12) and the treatment target (2) so that the ~~hard-coat~~ coating film (13) is continuously allowed to deposit on the surface of the treatment target (2) by the discharging energy to form a thick film.

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